

BOROUGH of ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

FOR THE YEAR

✂ 1920 ✂

BY

JOHN WM. TALENT, M.D. M.R.C.S., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER,

— AND —

MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT

TO THE INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL.



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THE PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICES,
TOWN HALL CHAMBERS,
ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE,

May, 1921.

To the Mayor and Council of the
Municipal Borough of Ashton-under-Lyne.

Gentlemen and Mrs. Wild,

I have the honour to present for your consideration my
Fifteenth Annual Report on the health of the Borough
and on the work of the Public Health Department, for
the year ended 31st December, 1920.

The general death rate of 14·3 per 1,000, is the lowest of
which we have record.

The birth rate, which was much diminished during the
war, has once more recovered its normal proportions.

The work being done for Infant Welfare has gradually in-
creased in amount during the year.

The need for special treatment of infants and young
children suffering from Rickets and Debility, was found to be
so pressing, that the Massage Clinic was opened for six half-
days in the week, in the place of three as previously. The
benefits so obtained are greatly appreciated by the mothers.

Details of routine work of the Department will be found
in the various tables embodied in the Report.

I am glad to take this opportunity of thanking Mr. Morris
and each member of the Staff for their excellent work and
support during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

JOHN WILLIAM TALENT.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY, 1920.

Area of Borough.....	1,345 acres
Population (1911 Census)	45,179 persons
Persons per House as per Census	4·36
Rateable Value	£229,555
Number of Dwelling Houses on Rate Book	10,436
" " " " empty.....	22
Population of Residents estimated at middle of year	
from number of inhabited houses.....	45,437
Density of Population (persons per acre)	32·4
Number of Births	1152
Excess of Registered Births over Deaths.....	501
Birth Rate (per 1,000 inhabitants)	25·3
Number of Deaths	651
Death Rate	14·3
Number of Deaths of Children under one year of age	138
Infant Mortality	119·7
Zymotic Death Rate	0·9
Respiratory Death Rate ..	3·7
Phthisis Death Rate.....	0·8

Elevation —The mean elevation of the Borough is 414 feet above sea level, and varies between 310 and 519 feet.

Report.

Natural and Social Conditions of the District.

Population (Census 1911)45,179

Population (estimated 1919).....45,437

The town is built upon the foothills of the Penine Chain and rests upon the Middle Coal Measures, which are covered by drift. Upon the south it falls towards the River Tame, upon the north it rises towards Hurst, and on the east towards Stalybridge.

The chief occupations are :— cotton spinning and weaving, coal mining, machine making, leather tanning and dressing, brewing, and the manufacture of chemicals.

The amount of out-door Poor Law relief excluding administrative expenditure, was £2,992 17s. 1d.

The residents of Ashton-under-Lyne who have received relief are classified as follows :—

Department.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
Hospital	171	109	52	332
Institution	260	137	42	439
Out-door Relief.	127	323	328	778
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	558	569	442	1549

At the District Infirmary 1089 persons from Ashton (including Hurst and Limehurst) were admitted as in-patients. In the out-patient department there were 2,224 patients treated.

Births.—The Birth Rate was 25·3. The Birth Rate for the 148 smaller towns (populations from 20,000 to 50,000) was 24·9. Total number of Births 1,152 or 631 males and 521 females.

BIRTH RATE IN WARDS FOR 1920.

	St. Peter's.	Portland.	Market.	St. Michael's.
No. of Births	343	291	353	115
Birth Rate...	23·3	34·1	23·9	17·8

BIRTH RATE FOR FIVE YEARLY PERIODS.

1898...1902 = 26·5	1908...1912 = 23·8
1903...1907 = 26·5	1913...1917 = 20·2

The number of Births in recent years will be seen from the following table :—

Year.	No. of Births	Year.	No. of Births
1911	1042	1916	771
1912	1044	1917	740
1913	1056	1918	732
1914	1053	1919	826
1915	902	1920	1152

Under the Notification of Births Act, we have received notice of 1071 Births, or 93 per cent. of the whole. In cases of failure to notify official reminders are sent to the party in default.

Deaths—The Death Rate was 14·3. This is the lowest death rate of which we have record. The death rate for the 148 smaller towns was 11·3. Total number of deaths 651, being 346 males and 305 females.

DEATH RATE FOR FIVE YEARLY PERIODS.

1898...1902 = 19·5	1908...1912 = 17·5
1903...1907 = 18·5	1913...1917 = 17·8

Infant Mortality.—The Infant Mortality Rate was 119·7. That for the 148 smaller towns was 80. Total number of deaths under one year was 138. The main causes to which the infant Mortality was attributed are shown in the table below, which contrasts 1920 with the four preceding years:—

Cause of Death	Deaths under 1 Year.				
	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916
All Causes.....	138	98	88	75	90
Smallpox .....	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	2	...	...	4	1
Scarlet Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough.....	2	...	4	...	8
Diphtheria and Croup.....	...	1	...	...	...
Erysipelas.....	1	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis Meningitis	2	...	1	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases..	2	1	1	...	1
Meningitis.....	1	...	1	...	...
Bronchitis.....	17	15	9	9	14
Pneumonia (all forms).....	27	9	8	5	11
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	10	9	5	5	7
Congenital Debility	48	40	32	24	35
Malformations.....					
Premature Births, &c.....					
Other Causes	26	23	27	28	13

Report upon the Sanitary Condition of the Borough of Ashton-under-Lyne.

Water Supply.—Water is supplied by the Ashton, Staly-bridge and Dukinfield Waterworks (Joint) Committee's reservoirs at Swineshaw and Greenfield. The supply is constant. The average daily supply of water for the year ending 1920 was 24·68 gallons per head of population per 24 hours. This was divided into 20·43 gallons for domestic use, and 4·25 gallons for trade supply.

The rainfall for 1920 was 44·93 inches. The average rainfall for the district is 49·91 inches. The average rainfall for all England is 35·00 inches. Rain fell upon 218 days.

Rivers and Streams.—No pollution of the River Tame occurs in its course through our Borough. All the closets are on the water carriage system, and any trade effluents are passed into the sewers. A small stream runs into the Tame on the east, forming part of our easterly boundary; this is free from pollution. Through the centre of our area formerly ran a stream known as Hurst Brook and Jeremy Brook. This stream has been culverted and now forms a portion of the main intercepting sewer.

Sewage Disposal.—Details relating to this were given in the Report for 1919. No change has taken place during the year.

Closet Accommodation.—There are no privies in the Borough. All dwelling houses are now upon the water carriage system. Fresh water closets number 3,107, being 2,742 in dwelling houses, and 365 in mills and workshops. Waste water closets number 8,025.

Cleansing Arrangements.—These are under the direction of the Cleansing Committee. The Destructor has been closed from June, 1916, and since that date all refuse has been deposited upon the tip at Gambrel Bank. Owing to the distance at which the tip is situated from the town, motor transport has been introduced, and this will be increased in the near future.

The Incinerator in the Town's Yard is used for burning fish refuse, butcher's offal, small carcasses, &c. Large carcasses, bedding, &c., are taken to the Stalybridge Destructor.

Sanitary Inspection of the District.

Work of the Inspector of Nuisances :—

- (a) The number of inspections made by him during the year was 3381.

- (b) The number of Statutory Notices served was 60.
 „ „ Informal „ „ 387.
- (c) The result of the service of such notices.
 Nuisances abated, 857.

Common Lodging-Houses.—These are six in number, three being in Charlestown, two in Scotland Street, and one in Crickets Lane. One of them is a modern building and well suited for the purpose, the remaining five are old premises, originally built for dwelling-houses.

Houses let in Lodgings.—These are situate in Charlestown and Crickets Lane. The number of these rooms is 38, and they are registered to accommodate 83 persons.

Offensive Trades.—The following are carried on in the Borough :—

- (1) Tallow Melter, one.
- (2) Leather Dressers, three.
- (3) Tripe Boilers, three.

The premises used by one of the tripe boilers are old and unsuitable for the purpose. The two other tripe boilers have erected during the year new buildings, which are in all respects in accordance with modern requirements.

Schools.

There are fourteen elementary schools, affording accommodation for 8,399 children. During the years immediately preceding the war, extensive structural alterations were made in several schools, by which the lighting and ventilation were much improved. The heating of the schools during 1920 has been generally satisfactory. The schools are all supplied with town's water, which is of good quality and of continuous flow. The majority of the closets are on the trough system. They were inspected and found to be clean and flushed twice daily. All closets discharge into the general drains. It was not found necessary to close any schools for sickness during the year.

The School Clinic is conducted in a building situate in Water Street, specially devoted to the purpose. A detailed description of this will be found in the School Medical Report.

Theatres and Cinema Houses.

In accordance with instructions from the Ministry of Health, inspection was made of the dressing-room and sanitary accommodation, provided at theatres and cinemas, for young persons employed upon the stage. This was found to be generally satisfactory. One or two improvements were required and these were duly carried out by the management.

Food.

(a) **Milk Supply.**—The only two cowsheds situate within the Borough are at Knowl Farm and Park Farm. These are both well kept. The larger proportion of milk is produced on dairy farms in the immediate neighbourhood and brought into the town morning and evening in milk carts; a smaller amount is delivered by rail from farms at a distance, in Cheshire and Derbyshire.

The Dairies are five and are all in good order. Shops selling milk in small quantities number about sixty.

In September the Municipal Depot for the provision of Modified Milk was closed and the premises were let to the Lancashire Hygienic Dairies Limited. This step was taken in view of the facts that, (1st) dried milk is quite as suitable for the feeding of infants and young children, and (2nd) the cost of dried milk is much less than that of the present modified milk as supplied heretofore by the Corporation Depot.

Milk and Cream Regulations.—46 samples of milk and 8 samples of cream were analysed. The cream samples were all found to be genuine and free from preservatives. The milk samples were all found to be free from preservatives, but one sample was found to be 23% deficient in fat; the vendor was fined £5, to include the costs.

Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1918.—Free and assisted milk has been distributed, upon the Certificate of the Medical Officer in accordance with the Scale approved by the Ministry of Health. The distribution of this milk is carried out at the Infant Welfare Centres, and under this heading details will be found.

(b) **Other Foods.**—The following were found to be unfit for human consumption and were destroyed :—ox tails 90 lbs. ; fish 109 lbs. ; ox tongues and tinned meats 374 lbs. ; Beef 1498 lbs. ; ham 17 lbs. ; carcasses of tuberculous beasts 8 ; carcase of bullock found dead 1 ; rabbits 219 ; kippers 36 ; eggs 59 ; crabs 1 barrel ; milk 154 tins ; flour 9,240 lbs.

A dealer was prosecuted on account of exposing for sale unsound meat : he was fined £40 and costs.

Bakehouses.—These number 24. Two are underground. They are in generally good condition.

Slaughter-houses.—There are 16 in the Borough. One was condemned and closed, as being insanitary and unsuitable for the purpose.

(c) **Sale of Food and Drugs Act.**—Details are given under “ Other Foods.”

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.

The total number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act, for the year 1920, was 423. This is 73 less than in the previous year.

There were 166 cases of Scarlet Fever ; 25 of Diphtheria ; 10 of Enteric Fever ; 23 of Erysipelas ; 64 of Pneumonia ; 1 of Malaria ; 112 of Tuberculosis.

The death rate from the principal epidemic diseases was 0·9 per 1,000.

Information is also obtained of suspected cases of Infec-

tious Disease from School Teachers, School Attendance Officers, Health Visitors and School Nurses. Enquiries are made and instructions given by the Health Visitors and School Nurses. Rules for contacts in School children are enforced by the School Attendance Officer.

Disinfection of clothing is carried out at the steam disinfecter in the Town's Yard.

The number of articles so disinfected was 1731

The number of houses fumigated was..... 322

A Special Nurse visits cases of Measles, Pneumonia and Whooping Cough, to give advice and assistance. She has made visits to :—

Measles	464 cases.	Chickenpox ...	16 cases.
Pneumonia ..	66 „	Diphtheria ...	4 „
Scabies	61 „	Erysipelas ...	3 „

Smallpox.—There has been no case notified during the year. In May two cases occurred in the adjoining Borough of Dukinfield, and eight contacts from these were found to reside in Ashtou. These contacts were kept under observation for three weeks and most of them re-vaccinated, but not one of them developed the disease. At the same time information was sent to all doctors in the town and placards *re* Smallpox were posted on the public hoardings.

Vaccinations :—

Year.		Births.		Vaccinations.		Exemptions.
1910	...	1093	...	263	...	564
1911	...	1042	...	164	...	552
1912	...	1055	...	157	...	578
1913	...	1056	...	148	...	622
1914	...	1053	...	111	...	665
1915	...	902	...	127	...	592
1916	...	771	...	141	...	527
1917	...	740	...	114	...	498
1918	...	732	...	73	...	426

Year		Births		Vaccinations		Exemptions
1919	...	826	...	77	...	546
1920	...	1152	...	152	...	412

No vaccinations were performed by the Medical Officer of Health.

Tuberculosis:—

The following Report has been kindly supplied by Dr. Stewart, Consultant Tuberculosis Officer for this area.

During the year 1920, sixty-two insured patients (new cases) applied for treatment. These included thirty discharged soldiers. Fifty-one of the cases were pulmonary, four were non-pulmonary, and seven were suspect pulmonary cases.

Of the pulmonary cases, thirty-one were sent to Sanatorium, eleven to Hospital for advanced cases, and eighteen were granted home treatment with dispensary supervision only.

Of the four non-pulmonary cases, two were sent to Manchester Skin Hospital for treatment, and in two cases home treatment only was necessary.

Thirteen of the cases died during the year, and five of these died in Pulmonary Hospital.

In four of the cases X-ray examination was arranged for.

Two of the suspect cases were, after observation, found not to be suffering from Tuberculosis.

One patient removed from the district during the year.

Forty six non-insured patients (new cases) were recommended for treatment. Of these, eighteen were adults and twenty-eight were children. Twenty of the cases were pulmonary, eighteen were non-pulmonary, and eight were suspects.

Of the pulmonary cases, twelve were sent to Sanatorium, four were sent to Hospital for advanced cases, and four were recommended for home and dispensary treatment only. Eight suspect cases were sent to Bury Observation Hospital.

Of the eighteen non-pulmonary cases, two were sent to General Hospital for surgical treatment, five received treatment at Manchester Skin Hospital, two were sent to West Kirby Convalescent Home, and one to Leasowe Sanatorium.

The Institutions where the new patients were sent to during the year were as follows:—

High Carley Sanatorium, 13; Bury Observation Hospital 8; Manchester Skin Hospital, 7; Elswick Sanatorium, 7; Meathop Sanatorium, 6; Aitken Sanatorium, 6; Chadderton Hospital, 5; Halifax Sanatorium, 5; Westhulme Hospital, 4; Eastby Sanatorium, 3; Marland Hospital, 2; Bowdon Sanatorium, 2; West Kirby Convalescent Home, 2; Manchester Royal Infirmary, 1; Ashton-under-Lyne Infirmary, 1; Leasowe Sanatorium, 1; Heath Charnock Hospital, 1; Ainsworth Hospital, 1; Luneside Hospital, 1; Wolstenholme Hall Hospital, 1.

The results on discharge were as follows:—

Disease arrested.	Disease Quiescent.	Improved	I.s.q.	Worse.	Died in Institution.	In Institution at end of year
3 *	5	48	7	3	5	7

During the year 250 new patients attended at the Dispensary. Of these, 176 were sent by their doctors for diagnosis, and 54 were examined as contacts of previous cases.

The number of old patients who attended was 295, and the total number of re-attendances was 860.

345 specimens of sputum, &c., were examined at the Laboratory, with positive result in 114 cases, and negative result in 231 cases. These figures include re-examinations of cases that previously had been positive.

There were 104 notifications made during the year, and in every case the house was visited by the Tuberculosis Health Visitor.

The notified cases may be classed as follows:—

Pulmonary...83.

Sputum Positive.	Sputum Negative.	No expectora- tion.	In Union Hospital when Notified.
53	22	6	2

Non-Pulmonary...21.

Glands.	Skin.	Hip.	Spine.	Tibia.	Rib.	Multiple
3	7	2	2	2	1	1
Pleura and Abdomen.			Peritoneum.		Epididymis.	
1			1		1	

Of the 83 cases, 14 died during the year.

In each case a report on the housing conditions was made. 58 defects were reported, and of these six had been remedied by the end of the year.

39 rooms were disinfected by the Sanitary Department. In a number of the cases disinfection was carried out by the inmates of the house.

In visiting and supervision, special attention is paid to the open cases, *i.e.* where tubercle bacilli are at present or have previously been found in the sputum.

124 such cases (73 males and 51 females) were known to be living in the Borough during the whole or part of 1920. 28 of these died during the year, and the number of open cases known to be living in the Borough at the end of 1920 was 96.

Of the open cases, 64 were able to have a separate bedroom, 36 were able to have a separate bed but not separate room, and 23 of the cases were unable to have either separate bed or separate room.

56 of the cases were in Sanatorium or Hospital during part of the year.

Venereal Diseases:—

A Clinic for the treatment of these diseases is held at the District Infirmary, and is administered by the County Authority. The following report is kindly supplied by Dr. Robertson, Medical Officer in charge. The Assistant Medical Officer is Dr. Margaret Gorman.

At the commencement of the year 133 patients were under observation or treatment at the Clinic. During the year there were 329 new cases admitted, 66 patients ceased to attend before completion of a course of treatment, and 110 after completing a course of treatment, but before final tests for cure were taken.

There were 11 patients discharged cured, leaving a total under treatment at the end of the year of 240.

The total attendance at the Clinic were 3672, and 2065 injections of Salvarsan or its substitutes were given.

There were 820 pathological examinations made for Wassermann reaction and the detection of Spirochætæ and Gonococci. The average weekly attendance is now about 100.

The hours of attendance are :—

Monday ... Females, 5-30 p.m. to 7-0 p.m.

Wednesday, New case, 3-0 p.m. to 4-0 p.m.

Thursday... Males, 5-30 p.m. to 7-30 p.m.

Scarlet Fever :—

Cases Notified.	Deaths.	Death Rate.	Removed to Hospital
166	3	0.006	72

Diphtheria :—

Cases Notified.	Deaths.	Death Rate.	Removed to Hospital
25	3	0.006	0

Antitoxin is supplied free of cost to necessitous cases. This antitoxin is kept at the Central Police Station. The amount so supplied was 68,000 units.

Enteric Fever :—

Cases Notified.	Deaths.	Death Rate.	Removed to Hospital
10	4	0.008	5

Measles :—

This disease ceased to be notifiable on the 31st December, 1919.

An epidemic occurred in the months of March, April and May. During that time 721 patients were visited and advised by the Health Visitors, and 44 of these contracted Pneumonia. The patients so visited consisted almost entirely of school children and children under five years of age. Information of its occurrence was obtained through the School Teachers.

Whooping Cough.—There were four deaths recorded. Most of the cases reported by School Teachers were visited and advised by the Special Nurse.

Diarrhœa.—There were twelve deaths. There was no epidemic of the disease.

Influenza.—The deaths recorded numbered 4. There was no epidemic this year.

Scabies.—The treatment by baths at the Municipal Disinfecting Station was continued during the early part of the year, the baths being given by the Special Nurse ; 61 patients were treated. During the latter part of the year the number of patients became so small that the baths were closed and patients visited by the Nurse at their own homes.

Encephalitis Lethargica :—

Four cases have been notified ; one of these was fatal. The ages of the patients were, 6, 17, 43 and 64 years respectively. Three were females, one a male. Three cases occurred in Portland Ward and one in St. Peter's Ward. The following are short notes of each case :—

- (a) A school girl, aged 6 years, had a mild attack, no symptoms but sleepiness and slight loss of power in left arm, made a good recovery.
- (b) A mill girl, aged 20 years, had severe lethargy and slowness of speech, fluid was drawn from the cerebro-

spinal canal ; confined to bed for several months ; marked emaciation and contracture of legs.

(c) A commercial traveller, aged 43 years, symptoms slight, recovery good.

(d) Housewife, aged 64 years, died after a short illness.

Full reports of each of the above cases were sent to the Ministry of Health and to the County Health Authority.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

(1) The Lancashire County Council is the supervising Authority under the Midwives Acts, 1902 and 1918. There are now on the register 14 midwives practising in Ashton, seven of whom are qualified by examination.

(2) The Maternity and Child Welfare work conducted in the Borough is under the control of a separate Committee of the Corporation. Administration is carried out as follows :— The Medical Officer of Health acts as Medical Officer to the consultation and treatment centres and supervises the work in general ; one Superintendent and three Health Visitors visit the homes and assist in the work at the centres ; a certified Masseuse treats the children requiring massage.

The Centres are two in number, situate one at each end of the town. The East End Centre, Enville House, is situate in Scotland Street, St. Michael's Ward, and has been described in a previous report. The West End Centre was removed in October from its former premises in Trafalgar Sunday School to Richmond House, Richmond Street, St. Peter's Ward. Richmond House has been purchased by the Council and specially fitted up for use as a Centre. It is admirably suited for its purpose, and stands in a central position. At each Centre the Committee maintains a resident caretaker.

The Ladies' Voluntary Society supplies a Voluntary Lady Superintendent to each School, Mrs. Councillor Wild, Deputy-Chairwoman of the Infant Welfare Committee, for Enville House, and Mrs. Herbert Heginbottom for Richmond House.

Both these ladies have a seat upon the Council Committee. Other voluntary members also assist in the keeping of registers, dispensing of milk, teaching of cooking, sewing, &c.

The number of births registered during the year was 1152 and the number of births notified 1071, or a proportion of 93 per cent. of the total.

Attended by Doctors.	Attended by Midwives.	Attended by Handy Women.
102	930	39

Summary of Work performed by Health Visitors:—

(a) Visiting at the homes :—

	East-end	West-end
First visits concerning births.....	464	614
Further visits to infants.....	1365	1113
Visits to children aged 1-5 years	507	775
Visits to expectant mothers	234	185
Miscellaneous enquiries concerning deaths, still births, &c.	51	142
Total	2699	2829

Visits to Infectious Cases by Special Nurse ... 1078

Grand total of all visits 6606

(b) Work done at the Centres :—

East End :—Tuesdays, 2 to 4 p.m., Medical Consultations and Weighings.

Wednesdays, 2 to 4 p.m., Expectant Mothers' Class, Health Lectures, Sewing Class and Social Work.

West End :—Mondays, 10 to 12 a.m., Medical Consultations and Weighings.

Thursdays, 2-30 to 4 p.m., Expectant Mothers, &c.

The consultations, weighings, lectures and social work have been held weekly during the year. The health talks are given on the care of the mother and child each social afternoon.

Cookery demonstrations are given in place of health talks at intervals during the year.

Record of all Attendances at Centres.

	East-end.	West-end.	Total.
Weighings.....	1446 ...	1808 ...	3254
Consul- (Expectant Mothers.	13 ...	26 ...	39
tations ... (Children.....	1176 ...	1257 ...	2433
Lectures	450 ...	1410 ...	1860
Sewing Class ..	204 ...	295 ...	499
Expectant Mothers' Class	40 ...	98 ...	138
Children (at lectures)	224 ...	301 ...	525
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Total	3553	5195	8748

Still Births.—The number registered during the year was 32.

Illegitimate Births.—The number of these was 69, being 29 in the West-end and 40 in the East-end. Of these, 10 died, representing a rate of 145 per 1,000.

Infant Mortality.—138 infants died before reaching the age of 12 months. As 1152 births were registered the Infant Mortality Rate for the year was 119·7 per 1,000 births. The corresponding figure for 1919 was 119·8. No less than 33 of these deaths occurred in the first week, and at least 48 were due to pre-natal causes, premature birth alone being given as the cause in 30 instances. Eight deaths were attributed to convulsions 17 to bronchitis, and 27 to Pneumonia.

Milk.—The following table shows the number of necessitous cases of children under five years, also expectant mothers who have been supplied with milk at the Welfare Centres and Massage Clinics, at less than cost price or free of cost, during the year 1920.

	At less than Cost Price		Free of Cost.		Total.	
	No. of Cases	Quantity Supplied.	No. of Cases.	Quantity Supplied.	No. of Cases.	Quantity Supplied.
Fresh Milk	51	1579 pts.	21	866 pts.	72	2445 pts.
Dried Milk	15	86 lbs.	53	784 lbs.	68	834 lbs.
Massage Clinic ..	..		36	96 pts.	36	96 pts.

Massage.—The Clinic for this treatment has been open during the whole year and has accomplished valuable results. The sessions were held at Enville House Centre on three mornings of each week until 29th November, since that date three afternoon sessions have also been held at Richmond House Centre. The morning and afternoon sessions are now fully occupied on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

The treatment is given by Mrs. Franklin, certificated Masseuse. Each child receives a cup of milk during the course of its massage, and the mother is expected to provide cod-liver oil for administration at home. Instruction is given to the parent with regard to special diet.

NATURE OF AILMENTS TREATED:—

Ricketty Deformity.	Paralysis.	Congenital Deformity.	Malnutrition.
27	6	4	2

AGES OF CHILDREN TREATED:—

Under 12 mths.	2-3 years.	3-4 years.	4-5 years.
3	15	6	12

From 1st January to 31st December there were 153 sessions held, at which 36 children made 1137 attendances.

Convalescent Home.—A very useful departure was made during the summer, by sending several weakly children to the Abraham Ormrod Children's Convalescent Home, St. Annes. This was initiated and undertaken by Miss Amy Judson of the Ladies' Health Society, who made the necessary arrangements and accompanied some parties of children. Those selected were suffering from general debility, anaemia, rickets, &c., and were examined as to their fitness by your Medical Officer. The first children went on the 17th April, the last child returned on 3rd September; 33 children were admitted and all returned much improved in health.

The Committee of the Ladies' Society made a grant of £28 12s. 8d. towards the expenses, the remainder of the cost was defrayed by the mothers of the children. Five mothers paid the full fees; in three cases of poverty the whole cost was borne by the Society. The fee charged by the Home was 14/- per week per child and the Railway Company allowed a small reduction in the fares. The total payments made by the mothers amounted to £54 5s. 5d.

The provision of convalescent treatment for delicate and ailing children is of much importance, and it is greatly to be desired that regular and extended accommodation should be provided for these cases.

Puerperal Fever.—Notifications numbered three, all of which died; Ophthalmia Neonatorum Notifications numbered eight, all of these cases recovered, without any permanent injury either in one or both eyes. Each of these eight cases was visited by the Health Visitors, sometimes more than once daily until they recovered, and assistance given in carrying out the treatment prescribed by the doctor.

Measles and Whooping Cough.—See page 17. 464 cases of these diseases were visited by the Health Visitors who gave appropriate advice and assistance.

Epidemic Diarrhoea.—See page 17. All cases were visited and advised by the Health Visitors.

Sanitary Administration.

(1) The Staff consists of the Medical Officer of Health, whole time, in combination with the post of School Medical Officer and Superintendent of the Borough Hospital for Infectious Disease ; the Chief Sanitary Inspector ; one Clerk who also carries out the disinfection of rooms, &c. ; two assistants for the purpose of clearing drains, cleansing tuberculous rooms, &c. ; one Superintendent of Infant Welfare Work, with two Health Visitors and one Special Nurse for visiting cases of Pneumonia, &c., and treating Scabies patients.

(2) Borough Isolation Hospital for Infectious Diseases is situate within the Borough, and provides two wards of 10 beds each, total 20.

During the year there have been 84 cases treated in the Hospital.

82 Scarlet Fever cases (42 females and 40 males) and two cases of Enteric Fever, both males. Of these, 80 were from the Borough of Ashton and 4 from outside areas.

The complications which various patients suffered from were :—Pneumonia, 2 ; Rheumatism, 1 ; Suppuration of Ear, 4 ; Nephritis, 1 ; Phlebitis, 1.

Specimens of blood were sent for examination to the Public Health Laboratory in Manchester from two cases, and a swab taken from the throat in three cases.

There were four deaths, due to Scarletinal Nephritis 1 ; Acute Scarlet Fever 2 ; Enteric complicated with Pneumonia 1.

The Staff consists of Matron, Staff Nurse, two Probationer Nurses, Cook-General, Wardmaid, Laundress and two Porters.

The number of cases isolated during the past six years has been ;—1915...91 ; 1916...27 ; 1917...28 ; 1918...36 ; 1919...54 ; 1920...84.

Smallpox Hospital.—For the treatment of Smallpox, Ashton-under-Lyne is in combination with the Borough of Stalybridge, the Urban Districts of Hurst and Audenshaw and

the Rural District of Limehurst. The Hospital of the Joint Board is situate on a well isolated site of 40 acres, on a hill side at Hartshead, in the Rural District of Limehurst, three miles distant from the Town Hall of Ashton. Provision is made of 12 beds, in two wards. During the year 12 cases of Smallpox from Middleton were treated, under a special agreement with that Borough. No cases were received from Ashton.

(3) The following Local and General Acts are in force in the district:—Corporation Improvement Act, 1886; Corporation Act, 1893; Provisional Order for Conversion of Closets, 1893; Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890; Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890; Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907; Notification of Births Act, 1907. .

(4) Arrangements for chemical and bacteriological work during the year 1920, and their results:—

	Typhoid.	Diphtheria.	Phthisis.
Positive	1	3	1
Negative	6	11	1

Eight samples of milk were submitted, and all were found to be free from Tubercle.

These bacteriological examinations were made at the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester.

Other Services.

The District Infirmary received a grant of 250 guineas during the year.

The Ashton and District Nursing Society received a grant of £20.

This Society maintains three fully qualified Queen's Nurses, one of whom acts as Matron. They are accommodated in a commodious dwelling-house in Katherine Street. Their work is directed in the usual manner by a voluntary Committee.

Housing.

(I) General Housing Conditions in the district :

- (1) Number of Houses : total number 10,436 ; number for the working classes, 8811 ; new houses for the working classes erected during the year, or in course of erection. None.
- (2) Population : 45,437. No important change occurred during the year.
- (3) (a) Extent of shortage of houses, 250 ; (b) measures taken to meet this shortage ; the erection of 250 new houses by the Town Council.

(II) Overcrowding :

- (1) 42 houses with more than two per room.
- (2) Causes : shortage of houses.
- (3) Measures contemplated to deal with overcrowding the erection of 250 new houses.
- (4) Principal cases of overcrowding dealt with during the year and action taken. No action was taken owing to want of alternative accommodation.

(III) Fitness of Houses :

- (a) The large proportion of the houses are of modern construction, and are of fairly good class and in good condition.
- (b) General character of defects found to exist in unfit houses ; faulty construction, deficiency of ventilation and neglected repairs.
- (2) Action taken as regards unfit houses under our Local Act ; notice was served on the owner of 10 houses in Charlestown to put them in habitable condition, as a result of which necessary repairs were carried out.
- (3) Difficulty in remedying unfitness was found owing to shortage of necessary labour.

- (4) Conditions as to water supply were satisfactory ; closet accommodation : fresh water closets number 3107, and waste water closets, 8025 ; refuse is placed in open ash tubs, which number 5950, and 360 dry ashpits.

(IV) Unhealthy Areas :

One area was officially represented as unhealthy. This area consisted of Peel, Canning, Duncan, York, Pitt, Nelson, Kent and Orange Streets.

(V) Bye-laws relating to Houses, to Houses Let in Lodgings, and to Tents, Vans, Sheds, &c.

These work satisfactorily and do not need revision.

(VI) Statistics for the 12 months ending December 31st, 1920 :

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which complaints were made by householders that they were unfit for human habitation. None.
- (2) Action under Section 17 of the Housing Act of 1909. Three orders for closure.
- (3) Action under Section 28 of the Housing Act, 1919. Number of orders for repairs issued : 22.
- (4) Closing Orders : 3.
- (5) Demolition Orders : None.
- (6) Number of houses demolished voluntarily : 2.
- (7) Obstructive Buildings : 2 demolished.
- (8) Staff engaged in housing work : The Chief Sanitary Inspector, who makes the actual inspections, and an assistant for the necessary clerical work.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

TOWN HALL CHAMBERS,

June, 1921.

To the Chairman and Members
of the Health Committee.

Gentlemen,

I beg respectfully to submit to you the following as a summary of the work done by this department during the year ended 31st December, 1920.

Summary.

Number of Nuisances reported and found	979
" " abated	857
Statutory Notices served.....	60
Preliminary Notices and Letters served with respect to Nuisances	387
Verbal Notices given	215
Notices sent to Schools and parents <i>re</i> infectious diseases	266
Notices sent to public Library <i>re</i> infectious diseases.....	21
Letters and circulars served (<i>re</i> other matters)	899
Number of cases removed to Infectious Hospital	72
.. houses disinfected	322
.. articles removed and disinfected	1731
.. library books disinfected.....	45
.. articles removed and destroyed	192
.. visits to houses <i>re</i> infectious diseases	614

Number of visits to premises <i>re</i> defective drainage, etc...	191
" " overcrowded, dirty, damp and in- sanitary premises.....	81
" " premises <i>re</i> defective and made up W.C's and W.W.C.'s, etc.	1041
" " " slop sinks, waste and soil pipes	179
" " " roofs, troughing and down- spouts	215
" " " floors, ceilings and walls...	35
" " " <i>re</i> nuisances from keeping of pigeons, poultry, etc.	11
" " single and back to back houses	53
" " insanitary yards, and unpaved backs and passages.....	45
" " offensive accumulations, and insani- tary manure pits, etc.	27
" " lodging-houses, furnished rooms and dwelling vans	215
" " slaughter-houses and bakehouses ...	151
" " cowsheds, milkshops, refreshment houses and ice cream makers.....	79
" " Factory and Workshops <i>re</i> Factory and Workshop Act	125
" " Offensive Trades	21
" " premises where work is in progress and for the purpose of ascertain- ing if notices have been complied with	196
Other miscellaneous visits and inspections to nuisances not specified above	17
Total number of houses, premises, etc., visited and inspected	3381
Houses and premises inspected in which no nuisance was found	14
Number of single houses converted into double ones.....	0
" premises limewashed and cleansed	53
" drains tested.....	72
Number of smoke observations taken	0
Number of street gullies found blocked and reported to cleansing foreman	33

Number of insanitary and overloaded ashtubs reported to cleansing foreman	215
Defective pavement and flagging reported to Borough Surveyor	6
Covered-in yards reported to Borough Surveyor	3
Dangerous buildings reported to ,, 	1
Burst water pipes reported to Water Engineer	47
Samples taken under Sale of Food and Drugs Acts	102
,, for Bacteriological Examination	8
Food submitted for inspection and destroyed :--	
S Tuberculous carcasses ; 1,498 lbs. of beef ;	
90 lbs. ox tails ; 374 lbs. tinned meat ;	
109 lbs. fish ; 17 lbs. ham ; 219 rabbits ;	
1 barrel of crabs ; 59 eggs ; 154 tins of	
milk ; 9,240 lbs. of flour.	
Disinfectants distributed (gallons)	217
,, ,, (cwts.)	69
Lime distributed (7 lb. bags)	89

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM C. MORRIS, M.I.H.,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Factories, Workshops, Workplaces, and Homework.

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or
Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	No. of Inspec- tions.	No. of Written Notices.	No. of Prosecu- tions.
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	12	3	0
Workshops (including Work- shop Laundries).....	106	4	0
Workplaces (other than Out- workers' premises included in part 3 of this Report.....	7	0	0
Total.....	125	7	0

2...DEFECTS FOUND.

*Nuisances under the Public
Health Acts :—*

Particulars	Number of Defects				Number of Prosecu- tions	
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector			
Want of cleanliness ...	4	4	0	...	0	0
Want of ventilation ...	2	2	0	...	0	0
Overcrowding.....	0	0	0	...	0	0
Want of drainage of floors	0	0	0	...	0	0
Other Nuisances	5	5	0	...	0	0
Sanitary accommodation :						
Insufficient.....	2	2	0	...	0	0
Unsuitable or defective	4	3	0	...	0	0
Not separate for sexes	1	1	0	...	0	0

2...DEFECTS FOUND (continued).

*Offences under the Factory
and Workshops Acts :—*

Particulars	Number of Defects				Referred to H.M. Inspector		Number of Prosecu- tions
	Found		Remedied				
Illegal occupation of underground bake- house (sec. 101)	0	...	0	...	0	...	0
Breach of special sani- tary requirements for bakehouses (ss. 97 100)	0	...	0	...	0	...	0
Other Offences	0	...	0	...	0	...	0
Total.....	18	...	17	...	0	...	0

3...HOME WORK.

Outworkers' Lists, Section 107 :—

	Lists	Number of Outworkers
Lists received.....	6	10

4...REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Class	Number
Factory Bakehouses	3
„ Laundries.....	3
Bakehouses.....	24
Other Workshops	139
Total number of Workshops on Register...	169

5...OTHER MATTERS.

Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :—

Class	Number
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 133)	0
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Acts (s. 5) 1901 :—	
Notified by H.M. Inspector	6
Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector	0
Other	0
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) :...	
Certificates granted during the year.....	0
In use at the end of the year	1

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

from January 1st to December 31st, 1920.

Month.	Dysentery	Malaria	Influenza	Cerebro Spinal Fever	Encephalitis	Leishmaniasis	Scabies.	Chickenpox.	Phthisis.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Intertic Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Diphtheria.	Erysipelas.	Total.
January.....	8	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	23	1	...	3	4	45
February	2	...	1	...	...	...	16	2	...	22	2	...	6	2	53
March	12	...	...	...	...	...	12	1	2	25	...	...	1	1	54
April	6	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	...	12	...	1	1	1	28
May	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	8	...	...	15	...	...	1	1	29
June	3	...	2	...	...	...	8	1	...	11	...	...	2	1	28
July	4	...	...	...	...	3	11	...	...	11	1	2	1	...	33
August	5	4	...	3	...	...	1	6	19
September	2	...	...	...	...	...	14	...	...	11	2	1	4	1	35
October	1	...	...	...	9	...	...	15	2	1	1	2	31
November	5	...	...	...	...	...	8	...	...	11	1	...	2	3	30
December	19	...	...	...	...	...	8	...	...	7	1	...	2	1	38
Totals	1	64	...	4	...	...	3	112	8	2	166	10	5	25	23	423

A RETURN OF THE NUMBER OF DEATHS AND
DEATH RATE, ALSO THE DEATH RATE

From the Seven Principal Zymotic Diseases, from 1911
to 1920, inclusive, also Phthisis and Respiratory Diseases.

NAMES OF DISEASES.	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920
Membranous Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	27	27	6	35	30	2	15	8	1	14
Scarlatina	2	...	13	14	...	1	...	1	1	3
Diphtheria	4	5	3	4	1	3	5	5	5	3
Whooping Cough	3	11	6	32	...	15	1	13	...	4
Typhus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric } Fevers	5	14	3	6	2	7	2	...	1	4
Puerperal	1	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	3
Diarrhœa	73	21	77	63	37	11	10	9	12	12
Dysentry	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	2	1	...	3	2	1	...	2	1	1
Chicken Pox	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total Deaths from the Seven Zymotic Diseases	117	81	108	158	72	40	34	38	22	44
Deaths from other Causes	684	688	665	678	724	586	607	760	732	607
Total Deaths for each year due to the Borough	801	769	773	836	796	626	641	798	754	651
Death Rate per 1,000 from the Seven Zymotic Diseases	2.5	1.7	2.3	3.4	1.7	1.0	0.8	0.9	0.5	0.9
Phthisis	1.3	1.3	1.0	1.2	1.4	1.6	1.2	1.6	0.9	0.8
Respiratory Diseases	2.6	4.1	3.1	3.8	4.4	3.5	3.3	4.7	4.3	3.7
Death Rate from all other causes	11.3	9.9	10.7	10.1	11.8	9.5	11.0	12.9	11.5	8.9
General death rate	17.7	17.0	17.1	18.5	19.3	15.6	16.3	20.1	17.2	14.3

INQUESTS.

During the year 25 inquests were held on the deaths of persons belonging to the Borough.

The causes of death were registered as follows :

Injuries	5
Heart Failure	3
Scalds	1
Suicide	6
Bronchitis	2
Senile Decay	1
Accidental Drowning	1
Pneumonia	2
Septic Poisoning	1
Abscess	1
Peritonitis	1
Shock to System	1

TABLE I.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1920 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Net Deaths belonging to the District.		
		Un-corrected Number.	Number	Rate.	Number	Rate.	of Non-residents registered in the district.	Residents not registered in the district.	Under 1 year of age.		At all Ages.
									Number	Rate,†	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	13
1915....	41149	916	902	19.9	1059	25.7	263	27	153	169.6	823
1916.. {	B 43459 D 39913	771	771	17.7	868	21.7	242	27	90	116.7	653
1917.. {	B 43607 D 39173	740	740	16.9	885	22.5	277	33	75	101.3	641
1918.. {	B 44458 D 39677	732	732	16.4	995	25.0	235	41	88	120.2	798
1919.. {	B 45519 D 43697	826	826	18.1	1034	23.6	280	25	98	118.6	779
1920....	45437	1152	1152	25.3	809	17.8	192	34	138	119.7	651

* Rates in columns 5, 7 and 13 are calculated per 1000 of the estimated gross population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) 1396. Total population of all ages, 45179. At census of 1911.

Number of inhabited houses, 10,344 Average number of persons per house, 4.36.

TABLE II.
ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.
CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1920.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.										TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.							Total Cases removed to Hospital
	At all Ages.	At Ages Years.								Under 1	St. Peter's Ward.	Portland Place Ward.	Market Ward.	St. Michael's BH Ward.	Union Workhouse.	District Infirmary.		
		1 to 2	2 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and up-wards										
Measles and German Measles..	2																	
Scarlet Fever	166	1	1	35	107	11	11				1	66	34	50	11	2		67
Diphtheria including Membranous Group	25		2	9	8	5	1					8	5	7	5			
Typhoid, Enteric and Paratyphoid Fever	10											2	3	2	2	1		5
Puerperal Fever	5			1	3	2	3	4				1	3	1				
Cholera																		
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	4			1	1	1	1	1				1	3					
Encephalitis Lethargica	23	1	1	2	4	4	9	2				6	6	6	5			
Erysipelas	8	8										1	2	5				
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	88		2	4	14	46	22					27	20	26	12	2	1	
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary	24			14	4	5	1					5	3	12	4			
{ Other	3		1	1	1							3						
Chicken Pox	64	12	11	7	9	8	5	4				30	11	19	4			
Pneumonia (all forms).....												1						
Malaria	1																	
Scabies																		
Totals.....	423	22	14	55	149	51	81	42	6			152	91	128	46	5	1	72

B.H.—Borough Hospital, Ashton. Isolation Hospitals—Borough Fever Hospital..... 20 beds.
Joint Smallpox Hospital, Hartshead 12 beds.
Total available beds—32.

TABLE III.—CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT DEATH DURING
THE YEAR 1920.—ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.

CASES OF DEATH.		Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.									Total Deaths whether "Residents" or "Non- Residents" in Institutions in the District.
		All Ages.	under 1.	1 and under 2.	2 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
ALL CAUSES	Certified Uncertified ..	633 18	133 5	18 0	17 0	23 0	20 0	88 2	167 7	167 4	....
Enteric Fever		4	..	..	..	..	3	..	1	..	3
Smallpox .....		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles		14	2	5	6	1	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever.....		3	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough		4	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Diphtheria and Croup ..		3	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Influenza		4	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	1
Erysipelas		1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ..		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis).....		38	1	..	..	..	5	18	12	2	19
Tuberculosis Meningitis		2	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Other Tuberculous Diseases		10	2	..	..	4	1	..	1	2	3
Rheumatic Fever.....		7	..	..	1	3	..	..	1	2	3
Cancer, Malignant Disease		42	..	..	..	..	..	5	24	13	28
Bronchitis		89	18	1	..	..	..	6	29	35	17
Broncho-Pneumonia ..		35	22	5	3	..	..	..	2	3	6
Pneumonia (all forms) ..		45	7	1	1	3	1	11	12	9	17
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs ..		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhoea and Enteritis		12	10	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Appendicitis and Typhlitis		2	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	6
Alcoholism.....		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cirrhosis of Liver.....		1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Nephritis and Bright's Disease		22	..	..	1	2	..	7	7	5	6
Puerperal Fever		3	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	3
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition ....		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Congenital Debility and Malformation, includ- ing Premature Birth ..		48	48	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Violent Deaths, exclud- ing Suicide		9	..	..	1	2	1	2	3	..	25
Suicide		7	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	3	1
Heart Disease.....		84	3	..	..	1	4	17	32	27	45
Other Defined Diseases.		162	21	1	1	4	4	19	43	69	120
Diseases ill-defined or unknown .....		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total		651	138	18	17	23	20	90	174	171	316

Included in the above are 34 deaths of residents not registered in the district, which have been allocated to the diseases, wards and sex to which they belong.

TABLE IV.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1920.

Deaths from stated causes in Weeks and Months under 1 Year of Age.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total Deaths under One Year.
ALL CAUSES	(Certified.....)	31	11	9	1	52	28	22	20	14	136
	(Uncertified	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	2
Smallpox .....		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chicken-pox .....		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles .....		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
Scarlet Fever .....		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria and Croup .....		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough .....		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2
Diarrhoea .....		..	..	..	..	..	2	2	2	..	6
Enteritis .....		..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	..	4
Tuberculous Meningitis		1	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	2
Abdominal Tuberculosis (b) .....		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Tuberculous Diseases		1	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	2
Congenital Malformations (c)		3	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	1	4
Premature Birth		22	1	3	..	26	3	1	..	..	30
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus		2	2	2	1	7	1	4	2	..	14
Atelectasis		1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Injury at Birth .....		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas .....		..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Syphilis .....		..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Rickets .....		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Meningitis not Tuberculous .....		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Convulsions .....		..	2	1	..	3	2	2	..	1	8
Gastritis .....		..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Laryngitis .....		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Bronchitis .....		..	..	1	..	1	6	6	3	1	17
Pneumonia, (all forms) .....		..	..	1	..	1	7	6	7	6	27
Suffocation, overlying .....		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Causes		3	6	..	..	9	3	..	..	1	13
Total		33	11	9	1	54	28	22	20	14	138

Nett Births in the year--legitimate, 1084; illegitimate, 68.

,, Deaths ,, ,, 138. ,, 13.

